ask one thing. The Minister is a lawyer. According to vicarious liability, if it is a lapse on the part of the intelligence, it is a lapse on the part of the Government. Will he concede that it is a lapse on the part of the Government?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the hon. Member has been a very senior civil servant and administrator, and now I know is also an exceptionally skilled debater. I can hardly match him in debate. I said in Mumbai and I said in this House and I say this with a sense of responsibility and regret. But I don't think you should add to what I said. What I said is, there were gaps and there are gaps in intelligence gathering and intelligence sharing. Since we are the Government, it happened under our watch, we take responsibility. I said so. And so I also told the people of Mumbai, I am sorry for what happened. Now, these are matters under my consideration and I have said, "We will make every effort to fill these gaps, to improve both intelligence gathering and intelligence sharing." More than this, I don't think you expect me to say at this stage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Q.No. 223.

Fundamentalist organisations operating through NER

*223. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several fundamentalist organisations, like Huji and others, are operating through North East Region (NER) to destabilize India;

(b) if so, the details of such organisations and their activities; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such activities and to safeguard the common population in NER as well as the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b) There have been reports that some insurgent groups from the North Eastern region have links with external elements and the fundamentalist/terrorist organisations, including Bangladesh based Harakt-Ul-Jehad-Islami (HUJI), which in turn is reported to have links with Pakistan based terrorist groups and Pakistani ISI. There are also reports that terrorist organizations, such as, Lashker-e-Tayyaba (LeT) and HUJI have been using the territory of Bangladesh for infiltration/exfiltration and carrying out terrorist activities in India.

(c) The Government remains firmly committed to countering the challenge posed by terrorism. Towards this end, a multi-pronged strategy is being pursued, in close co-operation with the State Governments, which involves measures to check infiltration from across the borders, deployment of Central Security Forces in areas prone to terrorist violence, continuous vigilance and strengthening of security arrangements in vulnerable areas and around vital installations, sharing of intelligence, strengthening of State Police Forces and up-gradation of their capabilities to deal with terrorist activities through the schemes of Police Modernization and

raising of India Reserve battalions, etc. Efforts are also being made to strengthen bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation at the international level with the aim of combating terrorism through arrangements for Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition Treaties, exchange of information and intelligence, etc. The Government has also been regularly taking up with Bangladesh various security related matters including misuse of Bangladesh soil for activities inimical to India at different level including diplomatic channels and consultations and other institutional mechanisms including the Home Secretary level talks, the last round of which was held in August, 2008.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, from the answer of the hon. Minister it is clear that Huji and other fundamental terrorist organisations are very much active in Assam. Huji is a Pakistani terrorist organisation affiliated to Bangladesh. Huji is also behind the serial blast in Assam which took place in October and more than 100 people were killed and hundreds of people were injured in the blast. We want strong action against Bangladesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: I am coming to the question. I want strong action against Bangladesh because it is Bangladesh, it is Pakistan who give shelter and who train Huji and Jehadis. After the attack on the World Tower in the U.S.A., not a single incident occurred in the U.S.A. because the U.S.A. took strong action, extreme action against the enemy. So, the enemy is afraid of U.S.A. Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is prepared to go for extreme action against Bangladesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in a House like Rajya Sabha, a very august House, we should be very moderate and very careful in the use of a language when we talk about other countries. That is all that I wish to say to my good friend, Mr. Baishya. Only a couple of days ago, I made a complete statement on the Assam blast, and I did point out that Bangladesh has a duty to respect the United Nations' Resolution and to prevent its territory from being used as a safe haven or a sanctuary for Indian insurgents or militant groups. I also said that we expect Bangladesh to honour its commitments and assurances. And I said, a message must go to Bangladesh that if it does not rein in and dismantle the infrastructure of these Indian insurgent groups and militants, in the long run it will hurt Bangladesh. Beyond that, Sir, I don't think it is appropriate for me to say anything here. We will use every instrument in our possession, especially diplomacy, to prevail upon Bangladesh to honour its international commitments and commitments under the law. At the moment, Bangladesh does not have an elected Government. A Government is likely to be in place in Bangladesh by the end of this month and we will, certainly, take up these matters with utmost seriousness with the Government of Bangladesh.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, today, Assam is a transit camp for terrorists. They took shelter in Bangladesh and with the help of open Indo-Bangladesh border, they came

first to Assam, districts of Assam and, then, they moved to other parts of the country, Sir. To save India tomorrow from these HUJIs, from these Jehadi groups, it is the duty of the Government of India to save Assam first and to save India tomorrow from these HUJIs and Jehadis. Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is seriously going to seal the Indo-Bangladesh border. With the seal of Indo-Bangladesh border, it will not be possible at all to stop the extremist activities in Assam because after doing unlawful activities in Assam they move to Bangladesh and our Army, our policemen cannot enter Bangladesh. So, without sealing the Indo-Bangladesh border, it will not be possible at all. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, I want to have a categorical assurance from him as to when the Government of India is going to seal the Indo-Bangladesh border.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, sealing the Indo-Bangladesh border means fencing of the border and the closing of any gaps that will encourage illegal immigration from Bangladesh into India. The fencing is in progress; I am not satisfied with the progress. We have reviewed the fencing and I have assured the Members in the other House, when the matter was raised, that this is one of the matters that will be addressed with the utmost seriousness in the next few days and weeks. Yesterday, we reviewed the matter in one of the Cabinet Committees, and the Prime Minister has given instructions that the matter of fencing must be taken up and completed according to the schedule. There are, of course, some parts of the border—I believe, these are riverine patches—where fencing is not possible. So, we have to find another way where the riverine entry points can be plugged. At some places on the Bangladesh border where terrain is difficult, the normal fencing, I am told, may not work, but I have instructed that even if it involves an additional cost, we will have to do some land filling and fence that part of the border also. All these matters are engaging my attention and I will, certainly, take steps to quicken the process of fencing the Indo-Bangladesh border.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Sir, the problem is very serious, as far as security on the eastern borders is concerned. The Supreme Court has given its ruling, while scrapping the IMDT Act, which was not actually curbing the illegal migration but was actually helping the migrants to stay on. That is why it has scrapped it. While scrapping it, the Supreme Court described it as a silent aggression. मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि IMDT एक्ट के जिन प्रोविजन्स को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने खारिज किया, जिन कारणों से खारिज किया, जिन प्रोविजन्स को उन्होंने इल्लीगल बताया, वही प्रोविजन्स जो इल्लीगल माइग्रेशन को संरक्षण दे रहे थे, उन्हें आपके इस फॉर्नर एक्ट में डाल दिये गये। अब जो सिक्युरिटी का संकट है, जो इल्लीगल इमीग्रेशन का संकट है, उसको देखते हुए क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताएंगे कि फॉर्नर एक्ट में ये जो डाले गए प्रोविजन्स हैं, जिनसे उनको संरक्षण मिलता है और सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने IMDT को स्क्रेप करते हुए जिन पर ओब्जेक्ट किया था, वे निकाले जाएंगे या नहीं?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, you will kindly appreciate that I would require a separate notice to deal with the provisions of the IMDT Act and the Foreigners Act. I have not applied my mind to these provisions. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Mr. Chairman, it is inter-related. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms. Mabel Rebello. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is related issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Sir, it is related. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a related matter. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has said that he would need a separate notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Sir, it is a related issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... He can take time. क्योंकि अगर बांगलादेशी घुसपैठियों की चर्चा हो रही है, तो बांगलादेशी घुसपैठियों को सबसे बड़े संरक्षण देने वाले जो कानून के प्रावधान हैं, जिनको सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने खारिज किया, उनको फिर से बरकरार रखा है, क्या आप उनको निकालेंगे नहीं? क्या वह पॉलिसी डिसीजन है?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if my good friend, Shri Javadekar, wants to know about the policy on illegal migration, I am happy to answer. If he asks me a specific question about the provisions of IMDT Act and the provisions of the Foreigners Act, whether the same provisions are here and whether I should repeal them, how I can answer that question unless I get a separate notice. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: It is related. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You send a notice and I will answer. How can I answer? (Interruptions)... I am not a walking encyclopaedia on law. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. (Interruptions)... Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the next supplementary proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You give a notice, I will answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All that the Minister has said is that he needs a separate notice. That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: He can take time. ...*(Interruptions)*... He can take time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not refused to answer. He has said that he needs a separate notice. ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, the Minister is ought to answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. I think precious time is being lost.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if it will satisfy the hon. Member, I will examine it and send him a reply in writing.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is that he has said that the international fencing is being done and there are gaps. I was in Mizoram just a fortnight ago for 15 days and I could see that Mizos from Myanmar coming into Mizoram bringing cattle, pigs and what not. Along with them, while doing trade, they bring drugs and sophisticated weapons also.

It is very dangerous. The same thing is happening in Nagaland; the same thing is happening in Manipur. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how we will stop all these illegal things under the pretext of doing trade. How will we stop all these illegal people coming into India and all these things? He says that the fencing will be done on schedule. When will be that schedule? Can you tell us exactly the time-frame when this border fencing will be completed?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, with great respect, I want to say that we must make a distinction between border trade and illegal migration. Border trade is allowed. That is necessary for the people living in the border villages. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: What is trade, Sir? Coming to the States and staying? ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not border trade. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we must make a distinction between genuine border trade and illegal immigration. Border trade is allowed because that is in the interest of the people living on either side of the border. There are limits up to which they can come, do trade and go back. So, while allowing border trade, we are conscious that this is being misused and illegal immigration is taking place. I said so. We must stop this illegal migration. One of the ways to do is to fence the Indo-Bangladesh border and, as I said, I am not satisfied with the progress there. This is being reviewed and the revised schedules are being drawn up. We will try to complete the sealing of Indo-Bangladesh border by fencing and providing adequate measures in the riverine patches, and, in some areas where border fencing is not possible, find ways by which that part of the border can also be secured.

At this stage, today, I am not in a position to indicate the timeline. I have said that the progress is not satisfactory. We must quicken the process. I will take every step to quicken the process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Amar Singh.

श्री अमर सिंह: माननीय सभापति महोदय, पहले तो मैं ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय सभापति महोदय ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I want to put a question. I have been raising my hand. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, this matter relates to the North East. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only three supplementaries can be taken up. That is the rule. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, this is a very important matter. The rule can be relaxed a little.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, Dr. Saheb. I take your point.

श्री अमर सिंह: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से गृह मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूँगा कि fencing की बात ठीक है, fencing में तकलीफ है, इसे वह कर रहे हैं। बांग्लादेश में कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है,

व्यवस्था होने तक वह प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं, यह भी अच्छी बात है। मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि असम के ढुबरी और बोंगाइगांव, इन दो जिलों में, विश्वस्त सूत्रों से यह सूचना मिली है कि यहाँ पर आतंकवादियों के कैम्प चल रहे हैं। ढुबरी और बोंगाइगांव भारत की सीमा की परिधि के अंदर हैं, ये पाक-अधिकृत मुजफ्फराबाद नहीं हैं। असम में, भारतीय गणराज्य के एक प्रांत के अंदर दो जिलों में आतंकवाद के अड्डे चल रहे हैं। आप गृह मंत्री हैं और गृह मंत्री के रूप में वित्त मंत्री से अच्छा काम कर रहे हैं। क्या आप कम से कम इन दो आतंकवादी अड्डों को तुरंत नष्ट करने के लिए कोई कदम उठा रहे हैं?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I should thank him for the backhanded compliment. I am not in a position to confirm or deny the statement of the hon. Member that there are terrorist camps in Assam. I take note of it very seriously. If there are any such camps in which militants are being trained or housed, certainly, it is the duty of the State Government and the Central Government to see that these camps are dismantled. I will certainly take up this matter seriously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Matilal Sarkar, with the request not to raise his blood pressure.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I raised my hands earlier also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether our Intelligence has gathered information as to wherefrom these extremists are getting training and wherefrom they are getting arms. Are they being refrained from doing these activities? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is planning to take any inter-State joint operation in the country so that the extremists cannot flee from one part to another part. I would like to know whether these measures are being taken by the Government. What is the policy of the Government in this regard?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we are aware that many of the Indian insurgent groups find sanctuary in Bangladesh and some in Myanmar. That is a fact. Of course, neighbouring counties deny such camps and they promise cooperation. There is an ongoing dialogue with Bangladesh on security related matters. There are talks at the Home Secretary level. There are talks in the Joint Working Group. Both sides have designated nodal points for regular and continuous exchange of information on identified areas regarding activities of militants, insurgents and terrorists. Red corner notice mechanism has also been established. There is a mutual legal assistance treaty between India and Bangladesh. Nevertheless, we are not happy with the situation where we are convinced that Indian insurgent groups continue to find safe heavens in Bangladesh.

That is why I said that this matter needed to be addressed seriously. As I said a little while ago, we will use every instrument in our power, especially diplomacy, to prevail upon Bangladesh to work with us in stamping out terrorism and militancy. There is not an elected Government in Bangladesh today. I hope there will be an elected Government by the end of this month, and we will take it up seriously with that Government.